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Connecticut Weighs Feasibility of Carpet Recycling Law

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By PATRICK SKAHILL

Earlier this year, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to pass a law requiring manufacturers to recycle unwanted mattresses generated in the state. Now, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is reviewing similar rules for things like carpet and batteries.



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stevendepolo

Scott Cassel is chief executive officer of the [Product Stewardship Institute](#), which was awarded \$180,000 from the state to study the issue for the next three years. "It's focused on four different products," Cassel said. "Batteries -- household batteries, like the single-use batteries, or the rechargeable batteries that we may use in our laptops or in radios -- also, carpet, packaging and printed paper, and pesticides or fertilizers."

Currently, in addition to mattresses, [Connecticut has product stewardship laws for things like electronics, paint, and mercury-containing thermostats.](#)

Cassel said any legislation on carpets, batteries, or fertilizers is still at least a few years off, but could ultimately mean extra fees for consumers at the point of sale -- money that would then fund recycling programs.

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